

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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P R 191655Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO USDA/FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6232

UNCLAS CAIRO 11107

USDA/FAS FOR DALE DOUGLAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, US, EG

SUBJECT: ESTABLISH OF GPW OFFICE IN CAIRO

1. GPW REPRESENTATIVE BENSON CURRENTLY IN CAIRO SEEKING LIVING QUARTERS AND OFFICE SPACE FOR RELOCATION OF FORMER BEIRUT OFFICE. BENSON HAS LOCATED LARGE PARTMENT WHICH HE DEEMS SUITABLE AT MONTHLY RENTAL OF 1,000 EGYPTIAN POUNDS UNDER TWO-YEAR LEASE. ACTING EMBASSY HOUSING OFFICER INSPECTED APARTMENT AND ADVISED ATTACHE THAT PROPOSED RENT IS ABOVE SCALE CURRENTLY BEING PAID BY EMBASSY, BUT APPEARS TO BE IN LINE WITH CURRENT MARKET CONSIDERING LOCATION (NEAR EMBASSY AND CITY CENTER), WILLINGNESS OF LANDLORD TO COMPLETELY REPAINT PREMISES AND OTHER "GET READY" EXPENSES. ATTACHE ACCORDINGLY WILLING APPROVE PROPOSED LEASE. BENSON WILL CONTINUE SEEKSUITABLE OFFICE SPACE.

2. GPW ALSO WISHES TRANSFER MARKETING OFFICER ZAVEN I. EKMEKJI FROM FORMER BEIRUT OFFICE TO CAIRO AND HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE NOT TO CUT HIS SALARY. ACCORDING TO BENSON, WHEN BEIRUT OFFICE WAS EVACUATED EKMEKJI WAS BEING PAID 23,688 LEABNESE POUNDS ANNUALLY OR DOLLARS 10,528 AT EXCHANGE RATE THEN IN EFFECT OF 2.25 LEBANESE POUNDS TO THE DOLLAR. AT PRESENT EXCHANGE RATE OF 68 EGYPTIAN PIASTERS TO THE DOLLAR, THIS WOULD CONVERT TO ANNUAL SALARY OF 7,159 EGYPTIAN POUNDS.

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER HAS ADVISED ATTACHE THAT TOP

SALARY ON THE LOCAL EMPLOYEE WAGE PLAN IS 3363 EGYPTIAN POUNDS, LESS THAN HALF THAT BEING PROPOSED FOR EKMEKJI, AND THAT LATTER WOULD BE COMPLETELY OUT OF LINE WITH COSTS AND SALARIES IN CAIRO. ON BASIS THIS GUIDANCE, ATTACHE UNABLE APPROVE PROPOSED SALARY FOR EKMEKJI. REQUEST COMMENT AND ADVICE FROM FAS/W.

3. BENSON WILL NEED PROJECT FUNDS IN NEXT FEW DAYS FOR DEPOSIT ON APARTMENT (TWO MONTHS' RENT) AND PRE-PAYMENT OF FIRST YEARS' RENT (IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL PRACTICE, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY). REQUEST NECESSARY STEPS BE TAKEN ASAP TO ESTABLISH PROJECT ACCOUNT FOR GPW BY CABLE AUTHORIZATION.
EILTS

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